



For Immediate Release:
September 19, 2006

Contact: Jonathan Godfrey
(202) 226-6888

Conyers Hails Passage of Global Family Day

Congressman John Conyers issued the following statement upon the passage of his bill, H. Con. Res. 317, a resolution honoring Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing.

Everyone in this Congress is concerned with finding a way to achieve peace - peace in Iraq, peace in Afghanistan, peace in every corner of the world. Many of us have widely divergent views about how to achieve that peace, but most of us want peace.

We all have families who are longing for peace in the world and an end to the suffering caused by poverty, disease, and hunger. Untold numbers of our friends, our neighbors, our parents, and our children, are hoping that there is more understanding, more generosity, more genuine friendship, and more caring among people of all faiths and cultures.

Perhaps we can't agree on military strategies or budgets. Perhaps we will remain at odds on many matters for the remainder of this Congress. However, there is one matter on which the Congress agreed in the year 2000 and which I believe a unanimous Congress can agree upon now.

H. Con. Res. 317 calls upon the President to issue an annual proclamation calling upon this nation's citizens to observe Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing every January 1st. It asks that we use the first day of every year as a time to reach out to others in the spirit of peace, to share a meal, and to help the needy at home and around the world.

A day of peace and sharing can lead to greater understanding and cooperation among political parties, faith groups, and people of different races and economic class. In other words, it's something that can help us all.

In the year 2000, the Congress adopted a similar resolution asking the President to issue an annual proclamation recognizing this special day, and in 2001, following the tragedy of 9/11, the United Nations General Assembly followed suit. Heads of state in more than 20 countries have personally endorsed the initiative. Just this past July,

Mayor Anthony Williams proclaimed 2006 to be Community of Peace Year, and urged all Washingtonians to become peacemakers.

However, a proclamation from the President asking Americans to observe Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing has never been issued. There is a need for more public knowledge that this important tool for peace exists. Members of Congress can help remedy that.

Global Family Day provides a way in which every man, woman, and child in the United States can help to reduce suffering at home, repair our damaged image abroad, and help us remember that in the end, all people belong to the same human family.

As we take up H. Con. Res. 317 today, I would like to thank the tireless advocates who have served as this Congress' conscience on matters of peace. These organizational advocates include the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Life Institute, and the National Association of Former Foster Care Children of America. The Global Family Day Foundation and founder Linda Grover inspired this creative way to bring us all a little closer together.

Thank you.

##109-JUD-091906##